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REMARKS

Claims 1-47 are pending in this application. Claims 9, 17-21, 23, 33, 34 and 44 are under consideration and were rejected in the current Office action. Claims 1-8, 10-16, 22, 24-32, 35-43, and 45-47 are currently withdrawn from consideration. Applicants thank Supervisory Patent Examiner Long Le and Examiner Gary Counts for the August 30, 2005 telephonic interview with Applicants' attorney, Jennifer Moitoso. Based upon the conclusion of the interview, during which the rejection to claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, was discussed, Applicants have amended claim 9 and canceled claim 21, without prejudice. Applicants submit that no new matter is being added by this Amendment and Response.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

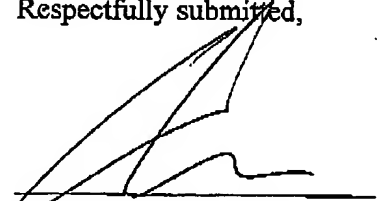
Claims 9, 17-21, 23, 33, 34 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. As stated above, this rejection, as applied to independent claim 9, was discussed during the August 30, 2005 interview, and Applicants attorney was told that the rejection would be overcome if claim 9 were amended to include an age-related tissue disorder indicative of a disease selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis and osteoporosis. Accordingly, as reflected in the listing of claims, independent claim 9 has been amended to recite a method of determining the presence of an age-related tissue disorder indicative of a disease selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis and osteoporosis in a patient. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, including, for example, page 7, lines 1-3; page 16, lines 1-2; Example 2, Example 3; and claim 21 as previously and as originally presented. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection and submit that independent claim 9, as well as claims 17-20, 23, 33, 34, and 44 which depend from claim 9, are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 9, 17-20, 23, 33, 34 and 44 are in condition for allowance, and request early and favorable action. If the Examiner believes that another telephonic interview would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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